

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PLAB

SUBJECT: BERGERON OF FORCE OUVRIERE REPORTS ON POMPIDOU' S
VIEWS REGARDING EUROPE

1. ANDRE BERGERON, SECRETARY GENERAL OF FORCE OUVRIERE, IN
SPEECH AT OPENING OF SEMI- ANNUAL MEETING OF FO' S NATIONAL
CONFEDERATION COMMITTEE, SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL COMMENT WHAT
PRESIDENT POMPIDOU TOLD HIM MAY 8 REGARDING EUROPEAN UNITY
WHICH FO HAS BEEN ADVOCATING FOR MANY YEARS.

2. ACCORDING TO GERGERON, POMPIDOU SAID THAT HE ATTACHES,
FAR MORE IMPORTANCE TO CREATION OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND
MONETARY UNION THAN TO UP- COMING TRADE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN
EUROPE AND US. BY WAY OF EXPLANATION POMPIDOU POINTED OUT THAT
US IMPORT DUTY RATES AVERAGE ABOUT 10 PERCENT, WHICH NOT VERY
HIGH. EVEN IF US WERE TO AGREE TO LOWER THESE RATES BY AS MUCH
AS 20 PERCENT, THIS WOULD BRING IMPORT DUTIES TO 8 PERCENT.
THE REAL PROBLEM, THEREFORE, COMES FROM DOLLAR DEVALUATION. TWO
SUCH DEVALUATIONS HAVE ALREADY INCREASED PRICES OF GOODS IMPORTED
INTO U. S. BY 16 PERCENT (SIC) AND A THIRD DEVALUATION CANNOT
BE EXCLUDED.

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3. BERGERON QUOTED POMPIDOU FURTHER AS HAVING UNDERSCORED IMPORTANCE OF CAP AS " STIMULANT" TO PROMOTE THE IDEA OF MONETARY AND ECONOMIC UNION WITHOUT WHICH EUROPE CANNOT COPE WITH THE THREAT REPRESENTED BY DOLLAR DEVALUATION.

4. BERGERON EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH PRESIDENTIAL CONCERN FOR EUROPEAN UNITY IN ECONOMIC FIELD BUT ADDED THAT WITHOUT POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS EUROPEAN UNITY WILL REMAIN FRAGILE.

5. IN A SIDE CONVERSATION WITH LABATT AFTER SPEECH, BERGERON SAID THAT HE WAS SURPRISED BY POMPIDOU' S EMPHASIS ON DOLLAR DEVALUATIONS AND RELATIVE DOWNGRADING OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS BUT ON THE WHOLE ENCOURAGED BY PRESIDENT' S PRIORITY ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC UNITY.

IRWIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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